



THE COLONNADE

August 30, 2013

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What happened?

SARAH K. WILSON
SENIOR REPORTER

As has been tradition for years, the graduating class of 2013 walked under the pergola between Atkinson and Terrell Halls. But rather than seeing a sun-dappled Front Campus that first Saturday in May, they saw rain pouring onto the lawn and their soggy parents.

Admittedly, this isn't fresh news.

Most GC students have already heard horror stories from disgruntled graduates and family members. However, what isn't as well known is that everything that happened to the class of 2013 very well could happen to classes graduating in the future.

At 4 a.m. on May 4, university officials decided to move forward with the day's Front Campus commencement ceremony despite rainy forecasts. The early morning hours saw a light drizzle that became a steady downpour, resulting in graduation taking place in a full rainstorm.

Parents and other spectators complained not only of sitting in the rain for over an hour, but a rushed ceremony. Some sent emails bemoaning



MARK WATKINS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The soggy seats the graduating class of 2013 sat in while rain poured down on Front Campus.

a "sea of umbrellas" that made watching graduates walk across the stage a strain. The lousy view and the foul weather made snapping pictures nearly impossible.

"I cannot express how disappointed my family, my daughter and I were in having to endure such miserable conditions," Dennis McDaniel, father of a graduate, wrote in an email to GC

President Steve Dorman. "[I] feel that the University puts tradition at a higher premium than the welfare of the graduates and their families."

There were a handful of responses in favor of the commencement ceremony, but the majority of missives obtained by The Colonnade echoed McDaniel's sentiments. Parents found the University's decision "selfish," "inconsiderate," "stubborn" and "disrespectful."

Likewise, graduating students expressed feeling "jilted" of a day they had worked toward for the past four or so years.

"I feel that after taking [our] tuition for four plus years, graduates such as myself deserve a ceremony that they can look back upon with pride," said one graduate in an email. "What occurred was nothing short of a disaster."

While some participants simply rolled with the punches that day, albeit bitterly, many took it more personally.

"There was an utter disrespect for us, our guests and faculty that attended the ceremony," another graduate wrote in an email to President Dorman. "Our graduation day ... was ruined by

Commencement page 2

SHE WAS...

MARK WATKINS
SENIOR REPORTER

Julia Tarter died both suddenly and early, and there is grief found in this story. The grief of losing a child, a sister and a friend. Grief that drove a father to call his daughter in tears, screaming, "Julia's been in an accident! Julia's been in an accident!" Fox 5 called it a tragedy.

Yet this is not a story without hope. Hope that begets peace. Hope that, though Julia is dead, they have not seen the last of her.

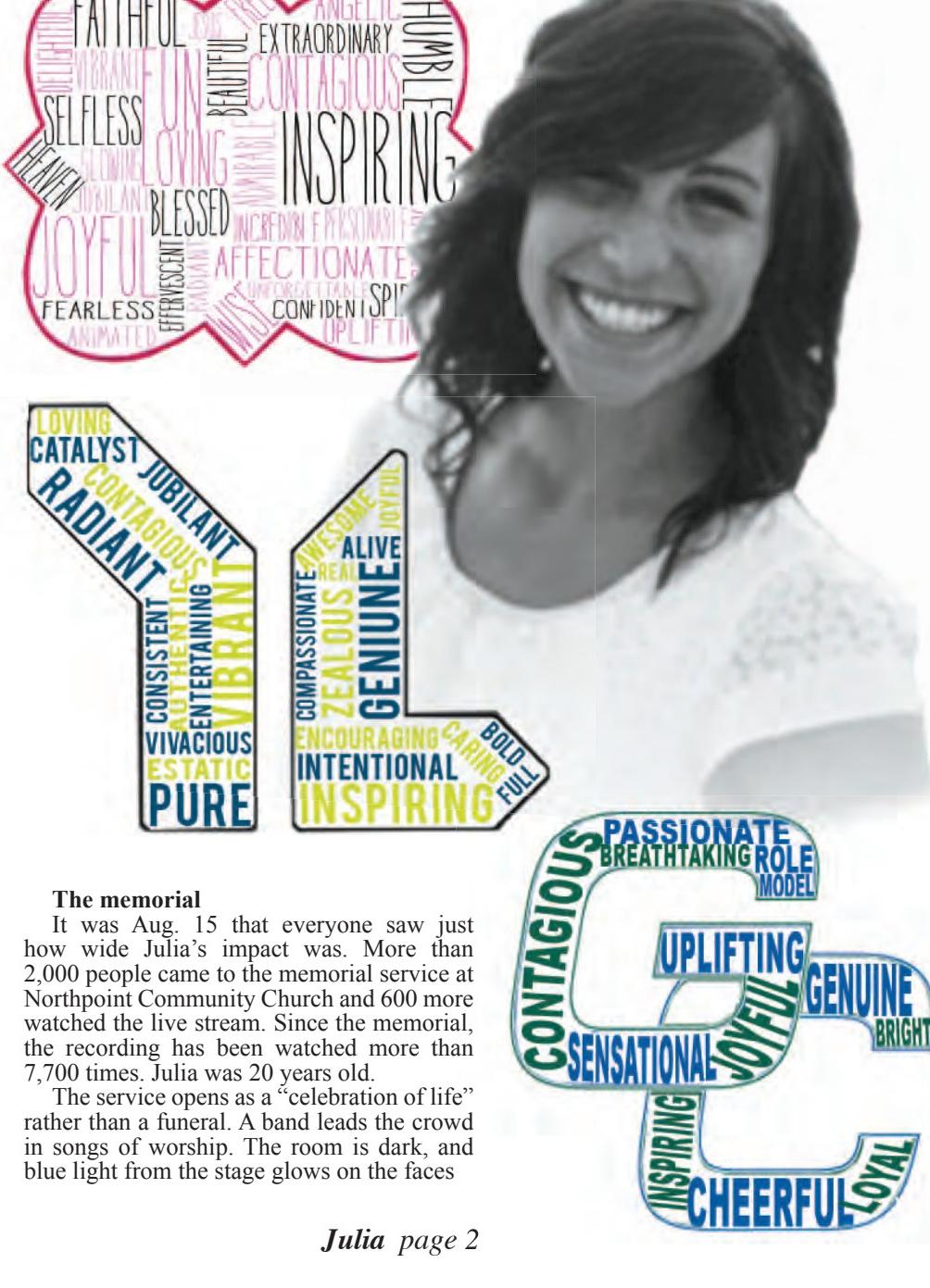
"Selfishly, I want her here on Earth, and at the same time I have to put my faith in a God that's bigger than me and that I can't figure out," Mallory Tarter, one of Julia's sisters said.

She was...

This is what Julia would have wanted you to know about her. She loved coffee, Jesus, Georgia College, dancing, Young Life, Nutella and Phi Mu. She was a junior sociology major and a Student Ambassador. She loved her two older sisters, her mom and her dad. She was best friends with her step-sister, Elle Wilten, and senior biology major Jacqueline Tibbs, with whom she lived.

"I'll miss her farts," Tibbs said, smiling. "She used to fart a lot. She's probably mad at me for saying that."

Anyone that knew Julia would agree there was something different about her. An effervescence of joy that was contagious. Fellow Christians point to the Holy Spirit, but even without religion, people could tell she was special.



Julia page 2

The memorial

It was Aug. 15 that everyone saw just how wide Julia's impact was. More than 2,000 people came to the memorial service at Northpoint Community Church and 600 more watched the live stream. Since the memorial, the recording has been watched more than 7,700 times. Julia was 20 years old.

The service opens as a "celebration of life" rather than a funeral. A band leads the crowd in songs of worship. The room is dark, and blue light from the stage glows on the faces

GC Recycling takes new step

GINA WEBBER
STAFF REPORTER

Last May, President Steve Dorman announced Georgia College's Recycling Initiative, a campus-wide plan that would replace trash bins throughout campus with recycling bins. While there has been student-run recycling efforts in the past, the new initiative establishes a collective recycling effort between the entire GC community.

The new recycling bins are equipped with clear trash bags, which follow a single stream recycling plan. Single stream recycling means paper,

plastic, glass and other items can go in one bin therefore making the process easier for GC students, faculty and staff.

The initiative was created by a diverse team representing the Sustainability Council, the Sustainability Office, Plant Operations, University Housing and the Student Green Fee.

"We all came together because Georgia College wants to be a good steward of our environmental resources. After conducting a trash audit, we learned that more than 66 percent of the material Georgia College sent to the landfill was actually recyclable," Cindy McClanahan, housing

marketing coordinator, said.

The Sustainability Council and the Sustainability Office conducted waste audits, which measure the amount of recyclable waste that's being disposed of, as well as examining the recycling programs at Clemson University, the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and others for GC's initiative.

For several years, campus recycling has been a student-run effort that relies on volunteers, but lacking participation has limited their reach.

In 2012, Holly Nix, a junior en-

Recycling page 3



TAYLER PITTS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior management major Courtney Roulain takes the time to add her water bottle to the nearly full recycling bin inside Atkinson Hall.

NEWS FLASH

New Varsity Team

GC has added a volleyball team to its roster of varsity sports. The team's inaugural game will be held Thursday, Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Centennial Center.

Volleyball page 2

Varsity page 2

QUOTEABLE

"I wanted to hear their voices, rather than media voices."

- Cynthia Farnell,
gallery director

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GC Cross Country amped up.....

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NUMBER CRUNCH

\$4.4 million

The revenue brought in from summer 2013 classes.

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3

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8

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4

5

Julia*Continued from page 1...*

of the crowd. A girl weeps, covering her face with her hands. People stretch their arms toward heaven – toward Julia. You can imagine she is reaching back.

Her youth pastor, Clay Scroggins, speaks from the stage. He tells a story of Julia washing the feet of homeless women in Atlanta and later putting on some hip-hop and dancing with these women.

His message lasts for an hour, and he closes in prayer, strained and halting, asking God to help heal the hearts of those mourning Julia. His “amen” is quiet, and his head is low as he returns to his seat. He exhales deeply, sits down, faint in the dim light, and puts his arm around his wife, shifting closer to her.

Two days before her accident, Julia wrote a list of truths in her journal that was put on screen throughout the memorial.

“I long for heaven to be with my Jesus,” it reads at the bottom of the list. She followed it with “being rooted in these truths, my life is an overflow of how good my God is.”

The accident

Julia was leaving her father’s apartment at Phipps Place in downtown Atlanta on Aug. 4 for the start of fall 2013 recruitment when the accident happened.

She texted her mother, Tricia Stearns, at 10:24 a.m. saying she was on her way to meet her. As she drove down her father’s sloped driveway, she realized she’d forgotten a bag and when she got out to get it, forgot to put the car in park.

It rolled down the driveway heading south and jumped a curb. Julia pursued the car, but before she could stop it, the driver’s side door struck a fire hydrant and pinned Julia between the driver’s door and the frame. She couldn’t escape, and the crushing pressure made it difficult to breathe. She honked the horn frantically, but the combination of shock and asphyxiation caused her to go into cardiac arrest.

A neighbor heard the honking and called 911, and a Grady ambulance was dispatched at 10:39 a.m. EMS arrived on scene at 10:50 p.m. and freed Julia from the car but found no vital signs. She had died.

Although it can vary slightly, serious brain damage typically begins after three minutes without oxygen, according to a report by the University of Michigan. At 10 minutes, severe, irreparable brain damage has occurred, and at 15 minutes, recovery is nigh impossible. Julia could have gone up to 20 minutes without oxygen.

The medics revived her and transported her to Piedmont Atlanta Hospital where doctors induced a coma and dropped her body

“I went to go touch her foot, and it still had Bath and Body Works lotion on [it]. She was still the Julia I knew.”

**Danielle Hughes,
Julia’s summer roommate**

temperature to give her brain time to recover. She would be held in this catatonic state for 48 hours and slowly returned to normal body temperature to see if brain function would return.

Danielle Hughes, her roommate that summer from Camp Winshape, a Christian summer camp, visited her in the hospital. The day before the accident they’d made plans to go to a Ben Rector concert together.

She says the room had a sense of peace. Worship music played. Julia looked normal. She could talk to her.

“I went to go touch her foot, and it still had Bath and Body Works lotion on [it]. She was still the Julia I knew,” Hughes said.

Julia showed faint signs of brain activity during her time at the hospital, but it was inconclusive whether it was enough to sustain herself. The family could choose to keep her alive on life support, or to see if she had enough brain function left to continue living.

“I just know she was like, ‘Mal, let me go. Heaven is so much better than what I’m going to get here on Earth.’” Mallory said.

Her father, Curt Tarter, and mother stood in the room as she they stopped life support. Julia’s brain had suffered too severe trauma, and she died Aug. 10. She is buried in a quiet, secluded section of woods.

Though she is no longer alive, her mother says “her miracles continue to unfold.”

Julia donated 58 of her organs when she died – her heart went to a young mother of two. One of her sisters in Phi Mu became a Christian after hearing her story, and for the first time in a long time, her mom and dad were in the same room, praying together.

After Scroggins walked off stage at the memorial, the lead pastor of Northpoint, Andy Stanley, closed with a final message.

“College students – students, gosh I hope you don’t forget something you learned tonight. The value of a life is always measured by how much of it is given away,” he said, pausing. “The value of your life will someday be measured by how much of it you gave away. Tonight we are reminded that we never know how much time we have to give our lives away.”

Editor’s Note: I knew Julia and was a leader at Gatewood High School when I wrote this story.

Commencement*Continued from page 1...*

the decision to hold the ceremony outside in a downpour.”

Charles Wendell Morris III, a GC alumnus, shared his opinion on the school’s decision, an opinion he believes is shared by his friends who also graduated in May.

“Having [Commencement] on the lawn for the sake of tradition is not an intelligent way to go about it,” he told The Colonnade. “I wish [the ceremony] would have been moved inside, because now a great memory is tainted with cold, rain and being surrounded by grumbling complaints on what should be one of the greatest days of our lives.”

Morris raises an interesting question about the seemingly increasing importance of tradition on campus. Despite disappointment voiced by the 2013 graduates and their guests, the main response from officials was that Commencement on Front Campus is something that the University would like to see continued. In his first year as president, Dorman resurrected the alma mater and installed a new carillon system to broadcast it across campus – specifically stressing tradition as his motivation.

In their dedication to preserve tradition, GC officials believed that it was worth chancing bad weather if it meant giving students the opportunity to graduate on Front Campus.

“We felt it was a reasonable risk to take to hope that the weather would cooperate and hold out,” said John Hatchel, director of university communications. “Unfortunately for all of us, that didn’t happen.”

A recurrent question from many attendees was why the University didn’t move the ceremony to the Centennial Center. Hatchel says that the rain experienced by 2013 grads didn’t qualify as inclement, however the GC website specifically cites rain – alongside thunderstorms and extreme heat – as a condition to move the ceremony. Weather must pose a threat to attendees to necessitate a venue change – something Hatchel says the rain on May 4 didn’t do.

However, Ralph Genova, a parent of a 2013 alumna, noted that his daughter’s grandparents developed bronchitis “from being exposed to the wet weather.” Hatchel did acquiesce in an interview that rain could potentially be hazardous to the elderly, but no mention of any policy updates was made.

Moving Commencement to Centennial would require splitting the event into two separate ceremonies due to seating limitations for the 1,010 graduates and their guests. University officials believed the added time of two ceremonies and a venue change would disrupt families’ plans for the rest of the day – many of which, they thought, relied on reserved times.

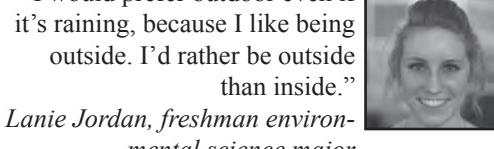
“I thought most people would rather endure a bit of rain and get on with their family cel-

Weighing In

Would you prefer a front campus Q: graduation ceremony, rain or shine, or a permanent indoor graduation?



“I’d rather be inside because it’s more predictable.”
Katy Hall, freshman early education major



“I would prefer outdoor even if it’s raining, because I like being outside. I’d rather be outside than inside.”
Lanie Jordan, freshman environmental science major



“Personally, I’d be into the Centennial idea. It takes away from the risk of getting rained on or sunburned.”
Caleb Gay, sophomore undeclared major



“I like the idea of a Front Campus rain or shine graduation. Both of my cousins graduated from here with that, so it’s kind of a cool tradition.”
Paul Spann, junior history major

erations and travel plans than to wait around Milledgeville all day,” President Dorman wrote in an email. “In addition, I thought we as a school were committed to the Front Campus tradition and the class [graduating] together if at all possible.”

The University has considered polling students for their preference of a permanent location for graduation ceremonies.

It would seem the majority of GC officials are complacent to keep Commencement on Front Campus.

“If it was raining the way it was [in the 2013 ceremony], I would assume we would still keep it outside,” said Hatchel. “At this point, the tradition of Front Campus commencement is one that the University would see continued.”

In short, nothing has changed. The inclement weather policy has yet to be revisited, and there is no new procedure to streamline a venue change. It seems that all future classes can do to avoid a graduation like last year is to hope for clear skies.

The Short List

As collected, curated and written by Sarah K. Wilson

1 Who could have seen this coming? Bradley Manning Chelsea Manning, who last week was sentenced to 35 years in prison for leaking federal documents to WikiLeaks, has identified himself as a female. She wishes to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible and requests that the media refer to her by her new name and in the feminine pronoun. This should make those 35 years in prison a lot easier. Story from NBC News.

The news from Syria just keeps getting worse. The Syrian government has been accused of using chemical weapons on its citizens. Upon an investigation by the U.N. Secretary of State John Kerry revealed that there is no doubt that chemical weapons were in fact used. The Obama administration is now weighing its options. Story from The Guardian.

3 A tragedy, avoided. Antoinette Tuff, who prevented a massacre at Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy Elementary School in DeKalb County, Georgia, received a personal phone call from none other than President Obama last Thursday. The president thanked her for convincing the gunman to lay down his weapons and surrender to police. Story from The Atlantic Wire.

Nidal Hasan, the Army psychiatrist whose 2009 shooting spree in Fort Hood left 13 dead and more than 30 injured, was sentenced to death on Wednesday by a military court. He will be the first American soldier sentenced to execution since 1961. Story from the Associated Press.

5 Wednesday commemorated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Thousands of people gathered in the nation’s capital to listen to nearly five hours of speeches to mark the occasion. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia also spoke, as he is the only surviving speaker from the 1963 march. Story from USA Today.

Recycling*Continued from page 1...*

Environmental science major, submitted a proposal to the Student Green Fee to increase recycling participation rates at GC which would require collaboration with University Housing and Plant Operations to go into effect. The Student Green Fee committee passed the proposal and the plan went into effect.

“We took Holly’s proposal and with the help of Building Services we expanded that to become a campus-wide initiative. Building services agreed to take ownership of it, and to make it successful, it had to have their support,” Assistant Director of Facilities Operations for Sustainability, Lori Strawder said.

Strawder contacted other universities with well-developed recycling programs, then she, Doug R. Oetter, a history and geography professor, and Walter Dudley, assistant director of building services, toured and observed those recycling programs.

Clemson became the primary model for GC’s initiative

“...it’s for the greater good, and that’s what we need to stay focused on. We have to change our culture and our values.”

**Walter Dudley,
Assistant Director of
Building Services**

with its top-down, “all or nothing” approach that requires all levels of faculty, staff and students to participate.

While it may require all levels of the University to be effective, it hasn’t exactly been a well received change at GC. There have been rumblings of frustration from students and faculty during the first weeks of school who cite the inconvenience of not having a trash can for food products available.

Before implementing the new recycling initiative on campus, Dudley and his staff tested the trash bin replace-

ment plan themselves. Dudley said it called for habit change, but more importantly, it called for a cultural change that needed to take place.

“We’re trying to do what makes the most sense. We’re trying to do what’s the most optimal for all parties involved. Will it cause more work for some? Yeah, but at the end of the day, it’s for the greater good, and that’s what needs to stay focused on. We have to change our culture and our values,” Dudley said.

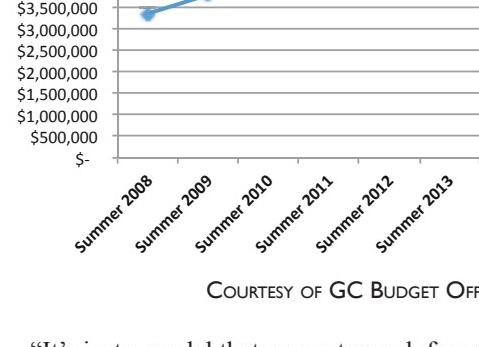
Over the summer, trash bins were swapped for the new recycling bins purchased through money from the Green Fee, but a survey of classrooms in Arts and Sciences yields a number of classrooms are missing any bin – recycling or trash.

The final step in completing campus-wide implementation is communicating, raising awareness about the recycling initiative and other initiatives that are taking place.

“We’re doing recycling, but not everybody understands that we’re also looking at lighting, we’re looking at other things. Just because you don’t see it, don’t think that we’re not doing it,” Strawder said.

Fast facts: Summer tuition

Net Summer Revenue



COURTESY OF GC BUDGET OFFICE

“It’s just a model that seems to work for us,” said Allen, who works closely with GC’s budget.

During fall and spring GC operates on a tiered tuition system which has a flat rate for full-time students, but during the summer students are charged by tuition hour.



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SCOTT CARRANZA / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Main House where Flannery O'Connor lived while at Andalusia is styled after Plantation Plain.

The site of Flannery O'Connor's final home seeks a new director to head the preservation nonprofit

GINA WEBBER
STAFF REPORTER

The Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation is in search of a new executive director. Craig Amason, who currently holds the position, announced his departure on Aug. 18.

Since 2000, Amason has raised more than \$1.5 million for the Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving O'Connor's works and final home at Andalusia.

O'Connor lived at Andalusia beginning in 1951 until she died from lupus in 1964. She graduated from Georgia College's former namesake, Georgia State College for Women, and her "Complete Stories" won the 1972 National Book Award. She is recognized as one of the great writers of the twentieth century.

Amason, along with two other board members including Bruce Gentry, English professor and editor of the Flannery O'Connor Review, hopes to find "an energetic, enthusiastic director with strong development skills and proven management capability."

"We've opened up the search, and it's been posted in several different places to get the widest distribution possible," Amason said.

Andalusia works closely with state, local, national and international preservation organizations including the Georgia Trust for Historic

Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"I think it will be exciting to see what this new director brings to Andalusia," Catherine Zeimann, Sigma Tau Delta president and senior English major, said.

Amason stresses the importance of keeping locals engaged with Andalusia, and he hopes the new director will continue to do so.

"One of the necessities of a nonprofit like this in a small town is to keep locals interested in what you're doing because they are your promoters, so when people come to town, you want people to say, 'Oh you got to go to Andalusia before you leave,'" Amason said.

The success of Amason's time at Andalusia in many ways rides on his ability to network and self-promote the mission of the Foundation.

"The best piece of advice that I could give somebody who's going to take over this position is: Be as diligent as possible about telling people what you do. Publicize it, get it out in as many ways as you can. Cast the net as far as you can, because in fundraising that absolutely essential, and nonprofits are all about fundraising," Amason said.

Interviews for the position will begin in mid-to-late September, and the search committee hopes to have a new director by early November.

Entrance Continued from page 1...

inches of rain in seven weeks over the summer holiday.

The construction has altered the path for many students and faculty members trying to get into West Campus. Instead of the usual route, Village residents have to enter West Campus from the back along Baldwin High School. This change in direction caused a bit of an inconvenience for those moving into The Village on move-in day, Aug. 15.

"Traffic was really congested, mostly from people moving into The Village," said senior biology major Brian Chesnut. Chesnut was working at the GC Wellness and Recreation Center during the move-in weekend and witnessed the congestion caused by cars moving into The Village.

He said the traffic inconvenience continues at The Village, with some employees' commutes to work being slowed when Baldwin High students get out of school each weekday. In short, he said, "It's kind of a mess all over the place."

"It's kind of a mess all over the place."

**Brian Chesnut,
senior biology
major**

Fortunately, the inconvenience did not cause any major disturbances to The Village's unloading process. According to GC's Marketing Coordinator, Cindy McClanahan, the incoming residents "did a fantastic job at navigating [around the construction]."

The school's housing department "proactively communicated [with Village residents] that there was going to be a detour." Traffic may have slowed the process considerably, but according to McClanahan, no major problems arose from the change in entryways.

"The University has about \$400,000 in

[the sign] right now," said Ruark. The initial completion date for the sign is set for Sept. 5. Once completed, work will continue on the landscape surrounding the new entrance.

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INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Sept. 3rd @ 7:00 pm

Sept. 4th @ 6:00 pm

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2nd Floor, SAC

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Community

August 30, 2013 • Editor; Sophie Goodman

W H A T ' S H A P P E N I N G

Monday, September 2

Labor Day Holliday No School

Tuesday, September 3

10 a.m.-2 p.m. PRSSA Rush (A&S Fountain)
8 p.m. Salsa Club (Centennial Center)

Wednesday, September 4

10 a.m.-2 p.m. PRSSA Rush (A&S Fountain)
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Senior Picnic (Front Campus)
12-12:50 p.m. Times Talk (LITC Second Floor)
7:30-9 p.m. Trumpet Recital with guest artist Karin Bliznik (Max Noah Recital Hall)

Thursday, September 5

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Winshape Camp, Summer Camp Job Info Tent (A&S Fountain)
7 p.m. GC Volleyball vs. Fort Valley State (Centennial Center)

NOTE: If you would like to see any events on the calendar, please send them to colonadenews@gcsu.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Reports obtained from GC Public Safety

1 GOING MUDDING

Aug. 2 8:35 a.m. Note to self: Try not to go mudding in a construction zone. Officer Spikes was called to assist a stranded driver. Once there, he noticed that the stranded driver was stuck in the construction zone at the entrance of The Village. Spikes smelled alcohol on the stranded driver's breath. Once questioned, the driver fessed up to drinking. He was arrested with underage possession of alcohol and to the Milledgeville jail.*

2 YOUNG LOVE

Aug. 16 2:40 p.m. What would you do for love? Well, a boyfriend got arrested for taking marijuana to his girlfriend's apartment at The Village. While the lovers were smoking, the door was left open. Sgt. English arrived on the scene and asked the boyfriend to come and talk to him. From the hallway, English spotted the marijuana sitting on a book bag. The boyfriend was arrested for possession of marijuana.

3 BEWARE OF THE CLOTHES STEALER

Aug. 17 1:01 p.m. Beware those who haunt the laundry room. Sgt. English was dispatched to Napier Hall about someone allegedly stealing \$195 worth of clothes. The victim said she put her laundry in a machine and returned an hour later to find nothing. She waited around for a day, lurking in the corners of the laundry room, yet her clothes did not appear. The clothes are still missing.

4 THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Aug. 18 9:15 p.m. Sgt. Purvis encountered a shaken female who said she was sitting in her room when she heard another door in the apartment close. Knowing her roommates weren't home, she fled the apartment and asked a few guys to look around. Nothing was missing, but someone had pooped in her toilet, taken a shower and rifled through her laundry.*

5 FALSE IDENTITY

Aug. 19 10:50 a.m. Sgt. Ennis spotted a car with an expired tag. The car's driver was wearing headphones. When pulled over, the driver gave her name. Ennis proceeded to look up her name and found the driver had a suspended license with an outstanding warrant. The driver was taken to Milledgeville Police Department, where she admitted that she had given Ennis a false name -- her sister's. The driver was charged with giving false information.*



*Incident does not appear on map

6 FEULING FIRE WITH SPIDER WEBS

Aug. 23 2:53 a.m. Even if you hate spiders, burning a spider web with a cigarette is probably not one of the brightest ideas. Sgt. Purvis was on patrol when he noticed two guys burning a spider web with a lit cigarette. Purvis noticed that one of the guys was intoxicated, nearly twice the legal limit. The second guy was also noticeably intoxicated, yet he denied that he consumed any alcoholic beverages. Instead of being arrested for underage drinking, the case is being sent to the student judicial review board.*

7 GROWING PAINS

Aug. 23 3:01 a.m. Sgt. Purvis was strolling through a parking lot when he noticed a man stumbling. The man appeared drunk. When Purvis asked him how old he was, he said he was over 21 and opened his wallet to show a fake ID. He then gave Purvis his real license, which revealed that he was underage. The man's blood-alcohol level was .15. Purvis confiscated the fake ID. The case was turned over to the student judicial board.*

8 BYE BYE BICYCLE

Aug. 26 12:10 a.m. A student reported his bike stolen from the bike racks behind Wells Hall. With dots connecting from a previous incident, a suspect emerged, a juvenile. The juvenile was contacted and told of the stolen bike, to which the juvenile admitted he stole. The juvenile was returned to his mother and a complaint form was completed.



Statistics from textinganddrivingsafely.com

77 percent of young adults think that they can safely text while driving.

Texting while driving for 5 seconds translates to driving BLIND for five seconds. This means if you're driving 55 mph, you are driving the length of a football field without looking at the road!

11

young adult deaths occur EVERY DAY due to texting and driving.

What makes you at risk?

You are 2.8 times more likely to crash while dialing on your phone.

You are 1.3 times more likely to crash while talking or listening on your phone.

You are 1.4 times more likely to crash while reaching for your phone.

How do they justify it?

Reading a text is safer than composing or sending one.

They hold the cell phone near the windshield in order to have "better visibility."

They text only at a stop sign or stop light.

At least 23 percent of all auto collisions involve cell phones, which translates to 1.3 million crashes!

1 in 5 drivers confess to surfing the web while driving.



A car crash is 23 times



more likely to happen if you are texting!

Opinion

Our Voice

Don't conform to the norm.

Most advertisements we see, whether via television broadcasts or print media, include women and/or men with what are considered "perfect bodies," vying for our attention in hopes of selling a particular product. To a generation practically dependent on media riddled with such ads, escapable and inescapable, one is bound to start being more conscious of how he or she looks in the mirror or through others' eyes. Days become longer and anxiety heightens when we get up one or two hours earlier to practice and perfect our makeup, when we go to the gym after class and work out until we can barely crawl back to our rooms, or when we decide to skip dinner again today in hopes of losing weight even quicker.

Over the summer, Abercrombie & Fitch announced its distaste for overweight and "poor" people, requesting their presence to be nonexistent in their stores. This blatant prejudice struck home with most of America as most Americans do not fit the retail store's desired body type. Sales have dropped since then, and the store's CEO claims that younger buyers are less comfortable spending money during a letup in the economy.

As young adults, college students are still susceptible to the influences of what we see in magazines, TV commercials and on billboards. Women, for the most part, in these advertisements are usually seen in formfitting, cleavage-bearing clothing with a consistent pair of heels. This portrayal of women forces the average girl to question her own personal style of clothing and body type. Being comfortable seems possible only when we are sick at home, away from the public's eye.

Men, on the other hand, will not admit it, but they too feel the pressures of seeing noticeably muscular men in the media. While most do not necessarily care, there is still a large amount of men who also feel compelled to look "good." Between straight men and gay men, the latter are more likely to experience body shame.

Straight males acknowledge models in muscle and fitness magazines as being better looking. Gay men tend to see them as guidelines. Being attracted to men, they take more interest in ads that include handsome, well-dressed, physically fit men. With only these images of the "ideal" male offered by media, gay men often feel the need to imitate them in hopes of being noticed and admired. The "perfect body" is most appealing to other perfectly-bodied individuals in the media, and there is no representation of any other body type.

A Georgia College student with an average-type body, for example, might not be experiencing health hazards, but he or she may feel out of place or even "wrong" for not looking like everyone else in general advertisements.

Dove has made a point to encourage girls to love themselves – bodies included – and to remember that there is more to someone than his or her looks. Since 2004, the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty has worked to promote self-confidence in women. Its goal is to help girls achieve their full potential without the setbacks of stressing over looks. Other companies have yet to produce an equivalent for men. It seems that when it comes to being a man, one's ego overrides any attempts at getting in touch with his emotions even if he could benefit from it.

The Colonnade strives to include every aspect of student life at GC, regardless of what a student looks like. When we take candid photos on assignment, we see only the interest you have in attending the event. Don't dodge a camera lens in fear of how you may look if the photo is printed. The camera is not your enemy. It is showcasing you for who you are – a unique human being with so much to offer. When we are all comfortable in the skin we're in, only then will human portrayals be more realistic. When we are proud enough to not let the media scare us into fitting into a particular size of clothing or gussying ourselves up to attract someone who could not care less about our feelings, we will finally have time to live our lives worry-free.

August 30, 2013 • Editor-in-Chief, Constantina Kokenes

A golden theft

MARK WATKINS
SENIOR REPORTER

To be honest, I should have expected it at Golden Pantry. Give a handful of half-drunk people 5 minutes to kill while they wait for their food, and you know something is gonna happen.

So, when it felt like someone started tickling my right cheek while I was waiting for my food, I brushed it off as an errant hand from someone's boozy misstep. Plus, I get tremors back there every once in awhile anyway.

It's my notebook, everyone keeps telling me. Sitting on that pad of smooth Manila paper pinches a nerve (sciatic, I believe) and offsets the disks in your back. I try to offset that by sitting on a similarly sized wallet on the other side, but I have this feeling I'm still doing something wrong.

I do it anyway and won't stop anytime soon. Being able to write, sketch, compose, figure, delineate and generally keep track of my life is worth a deviated back and a few butt tremors. Granted, I have considered getting a thinner journal, and I am on the market for a money clip, just so long as I keep my Pilot G-2.

I've used a G-2 since I started carrying a journal roughly a year ago, and I'm not embarrassed to admit I'm a bit attached. We writers don't have much "gear" to nerd out on, so I get it where I can.

That said, my impulses may be muted, but as soon as threat level reaches past one, it's serious.

I snapped my head around, and there he stood with a fresh sheen of grimy bar-sweat, slowly and clumsily pulling my pen out of my back pocket.

"What are you doing?" I asked. His mouth contorted into something foul and innocent like a baby smacked in the mouth with his own rattle. Some croaking noises came out of his throat, but for the most part, he just froze with my pen half way between us.

"Can I have my pen back?" I said. He started saying some stuff like how he really liked my pen told me his favorite were zebra pens. I pulled them up on my phone and told him they looked stupid (which they did). He walked away.

I wouldn't usually write about this, but I felt compelled to warn the campus; I think it was a setup. Just before the drunk pocket-diver tried to pilfer my pen, the girl he was with came up and acted really interested in the Union-Recorder I was reading! Clever distraction, but I see your schemes!



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Cyrus performance reeks of desperation as she attempts to shed her Disney image

CONSTANTINA KOKENES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

2013 seems to be the year that child stars are going crazy. First Amanda Bynes, now Miley Cyrus. Cyrus's performance at the VMA's was nothing short of an embarrassment. Not because she didn't have the attitude. Not because she didn't have the determination. But simply because she was trying way too hard to show that she's no longer the innocent little girl Disney molded her to be. It's understandable, though, why she put on such an outrageous performance. The Disney label is hard to get rid of – think about it. People still associate her with Disney. No one can believe "that Disney kid" would perform something like that. Despite all her efforts, she's still associated with Disney – something she clearly wishes to be rid of. However, I'm not sure what concerned me more: this performance or the fact that CNN had this as its top news story on its website.

To be clear, I don't hate Miley Cyrus, but I'm not a fan of her either. I could have done without Hannah Montana. I thought she looked fierce when she first cut off her hair – I'm pretty much impartial and have never cared to follow what she does. But when the massive flux of Facebook

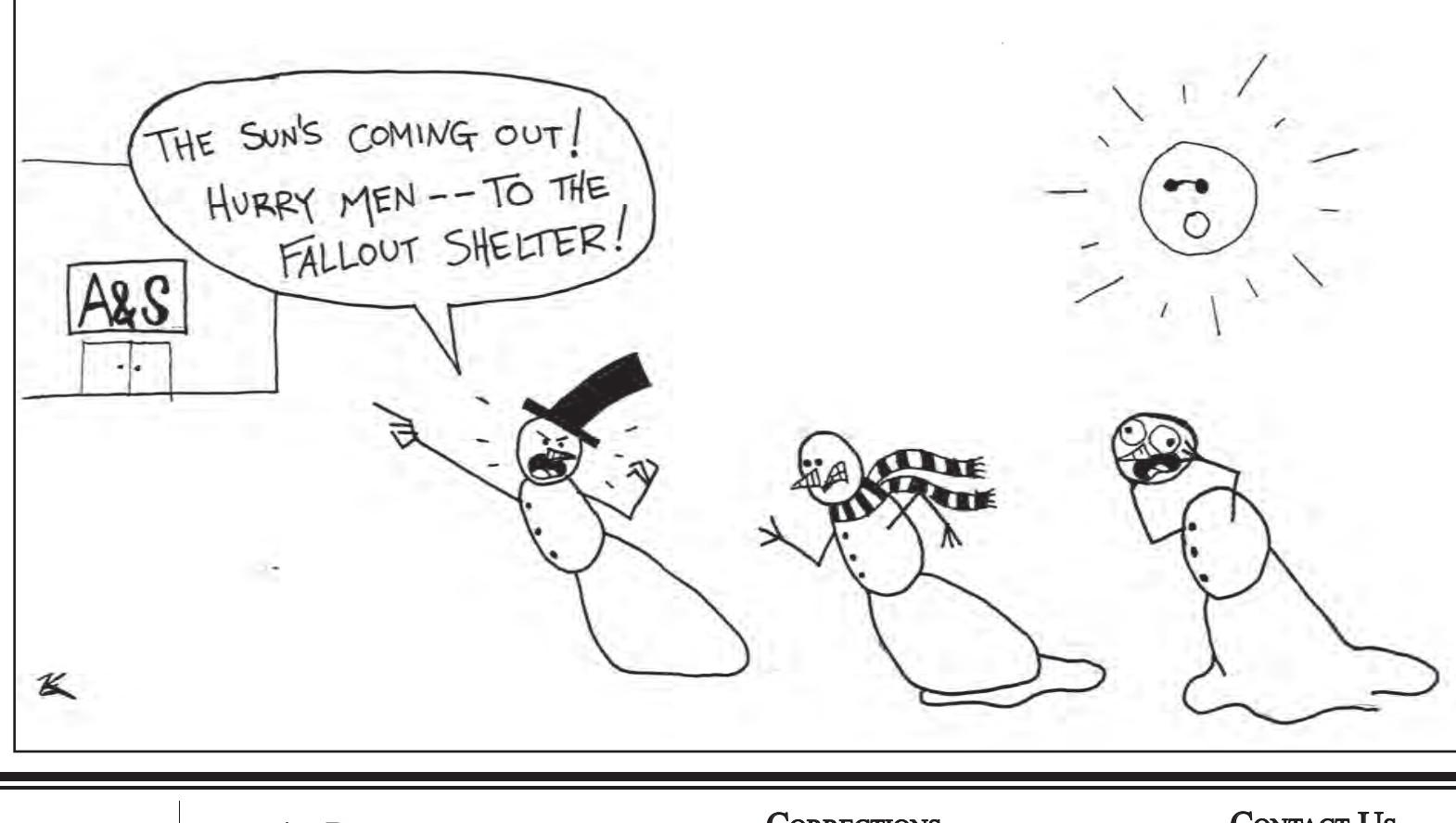
statuses on my newsfeed came in, I got really curious. How could anyone ignore comments like, "That girl needs Jesus" and "Are you kidding me? What in the world is Miley Cyrus doing on that stage! When Lady Gaga is cleaner than you, something is wrong!!!"?

Her performance confused me, but what confused me more was that no one said a word about Robin Thicke – besides his eerie resemblance to Beetlejuice. Everyone just blamed it on Cyrus, saying she was being inappropriate, especially since Thicke was married. That's the kicker: He's married. He should know what's appropriate. I mean, I get it. Just listen to "Blurred Lines," and the point will clearly come across to anyone.

The simple truth is that the performance humiliated everyone involved. Thicke came off across as a creep, grinding up on a young girl especially since he's married. Cyrus seemed to be screaming for attention. Those poor backup dancers had to wear giant teddy bear backpacks. And don't get me started on the giant pink bears in the background.

I think Jamie Foxx was right when he warned us all that Cyrus would end up on a stripper pole, but not because she's trashy; she just wants the attention. Either way, everyone owes him an apology for making him apologize.

It's always freezing cold in A&S...



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CORRECTIONS

In the Aug. 30 issue of The Colonnade, it was incorrectly stated in "Venture Out" that the High Museum in Atlanta lets GC students in for free if they show their Bobcat card. GC did not renew its membership with the High this year.

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GC STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Inspire!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM

Fall 2013 Speaker Schedule



Jane Hutterly

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Student Activity Center
Magnolia Ballroom

Bio Highlights:

- Current Board Member with Johnson Financial Group, Inc., Lutron Electronics, and the Oconee Performing Arts Society
- Former Executive Vice President of Worldwide Corporate and Environmental Affairs of S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc.
- Former President of Johnson-Keland Management, Inc.
- Former Marketing Manager with Frito Lay, Inc.
- MBA from Cornell University

Gary Strack

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Student Activity Center
Magnolia Ballroom

Bio Highlights:

- Current Executive in Residence with the GC College of Business
- Current Mentor with Merryck and Co.
- Former CEO of Orlando Health
- Former CEO of Boca Raton Community Hospital
- Doctorate from the Medical University of South Carolina

Ed Bullard

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Student Activity Center
Magnolia Ballroom

Bio Highlights:

- Current Chairman of the Greene County Board of Commissioners
- Former Government Affairs Executive with Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation, Chrysler Technologies, and the Raytheon Corporation
- Retired Commander of the Presidential Airlift Wing, Home of Air Force One
- Decorated Vietnam Veteran with over 700 Combat Hours and Two Distinguished Flying Crosses
- Master's in Political Science from Auburn University



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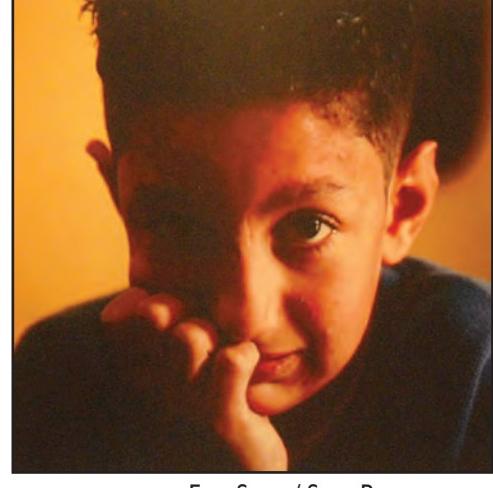
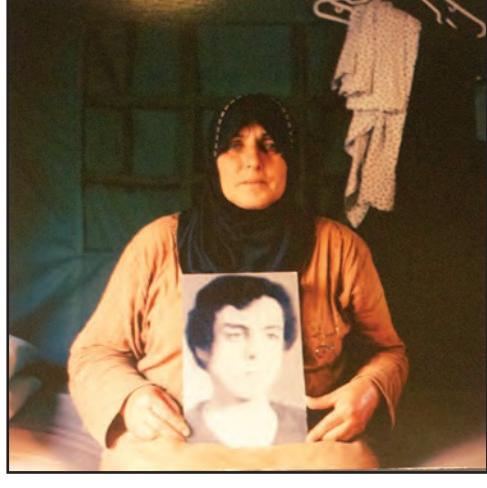
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"... It's not really capturing them just smiling in a pose, it's their expression on how they're living their life."
Millie Dempsey, public administration graduate student



"Rawiya: She Who Tells A Story" conceptualizes the strife and elation of life in the Middle East captured through the eyes of female photographers. Each individual collection conveys the personality of the personal messages of each photographer.

ELIE SMITH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE EASTERN STARS

The GC Museum exhibit "Rawiya: She Who Tells A Story" offers an alternative perspective to the Middle Eastern culture and conflicts through a collaboration of photographs

SOPHIE GOODMAN
SENIOR REPORTER

Stepping into the Georgia College Museum, the entire room is taken over with large photograph collages that are arranged accordingly, neatly and perfectly on the white walls. Middle Eastern men and women are the subjects throughout the art exhibit, and their unique stories whether happy or sad are shown through in one still image.

"Rawiya: She Who Tells A Story" is a compilation of six photographers: Myriam Abdelaziz, Laura Boushnak, Tanya Habjouqa, Tamira Abdul Hadi, Dalia Khamissy and Newsha Tavkolian. Each photographer presents a different story pertaining to the Middle East.

Cynthia Farnell, Gallery Director at Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, spent around a year compiling all of the photographs, but became interested in the Middle East far before that.

"While the Arab Spring was going on I became interested in finding out what women photographers were doing in the Middle East. I found the Rawiya [collection] through a photographer named Myriam Abdelaziz, who is based in New York and Cairo," Farnell said. "She introduced me to the other women in the collective and we started the conversation about the exhibit via a series of Skype conversations. We settled on a theme - women's issues."

Rather than listening to the dreary media reports, Farnell decided to go right to the source.

"I wanted to find out what contemporary women artists in the Middle East were saying

about their own countries and what was happening there," Farnell said. "I wanted to hear their voices, rather than media voices."

The exhibit then became apparent to GC when the library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association in order to have a five-part reading and discussion titled "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys."

"I was looking for something to programmatically connect to that grant," Shannon Morris, GC Museum curator, said. "The curator at Georgia State, Cynthia Farnell, whom I know had put together this exhibition for Georgia State and so it comes to us from the Welch Gallery at Georgia State."

From there, the exhibit was set up, which was all completed by the GC Museum.

"[The exhibit is] interesting to me because I just travelled in Australia and it's neat to see all of these different people from a different part of the world and kind of the way they live through the pictures," Millie Dempsey, a public administration graduate student, said.

Newsha Tavkolian's photographs are entitled, "The Day I Became A Woman."

"I particularly favor the story that is being told by the photographs of Newsha Tavkolian's "The Day I Became A Woman," which is a recollection of Islamic tradition of becoming a woman, which is done in the ninth year of a girl's life," Morris said.

Each photograph depicts turning points in a girl's life where they can celebrate becoming a woman.

"For the children at my niece's school, the event is symbolic – most of their parents aren't actively religious, but it's still an important event," Tavkolian according to her artist statement. "The children are called "an-

gels" and dressed up in similar attire complete with wings. They are women now."

As one walks through the exhibit, the next set of pictures by Dalia Khamissy entitled, "The Missing," feature those who have been kidnapped, which occurred during the Lebanese Civil War. Each photo features objects a person would have a use of, yet the photograph is lacking something – the person.

"In a nation where officials are suppressing the atrocities of the civil war, "The Missing" is a work in progress documenting the story of the victims of enforced disappearances and their families, their faith and struggle, the power that keeps them going on to find the fate of their loved ones, defying those responsible for the kidnappings and who are still in power," Khamissy said in her artist's statement.

The continuation of these photographs display pictures of the loved ones of the missing people.

Tamara Abdul Hadi's collection titled "Picture an Arab Man" features Arabic men.

"The conceptual aim of this portrait series is two-fold: Trying to uncover and break the stereotypes placed upon the Arab man, and providing an alternative visual representation of that identity," Hadi according to her artist statement. "Secondly, it is a celebration of their sensual beauty, an unexplored aspect of the identity of the contemporary Arab man, on the cusp of change in a society that reveres an outdated form of hyper-masculinity."

The culture and the way each man has lived his life is apparent through his facial expressions and body language. Although each man is different, they all hold a certain level

Rawiya page 8

Buff's Back-to-School event draws crowd

KAT WARDELL
SENIOR REPORTER

With school back in session, the streets of downtown Milledgeville have been flooded with old and new faces. Two back to school events, which took place at Buffington's this past week, have brought out a number of students who seemed excited to be back.

On Aug. 21, Buffington's hosted a Back to School Comedy Blowout, featuring both Georgia College student comedians and comedians from out of town.

The lineup opened with GC alum Samm Severin, whose voice was eerily identical to actress Jennifer Lawrence's. Following Severin was GC senior history major, Adam Greene. Greene's act was a flawless impersonation of Bane from "The Dark Knight Rises" reading a passage from "50 Shades of Grey." Greene pulled off his perfect impersonation by covering his mouth with a red solo cup, and ended his set by flooring the audience with a quick impersonation of Walt Jr. from "Breaking Bad."

"The Bane voice was just something I had played around with one day and felt like it would be fun to get him to do

everyday things, like read '50 Shades of Grey'...if that's what you're into. I've read rap lyrics in his voice and that was pretty funny too. Walter White Jr. from 'Breaking Bad' was something I discovered I could do just this week and wanted to throw a snippet of in there," Greene said.

GC secondary education graduate students Whitney Cutler and Sam Castagna attended the event together both confessed that Greene was one of their favorites of the night.

"He [Greene] was spot-on and we were all practically falling out of our seats because we were laughing so hard," Castagna said.

When asked if he had any other impersonations up his sleeve, Greene admitted that, "Awkwardly I can do every voice from the show 'Squidbillies' on Adult Swim, but that's not as recognizable."

Both Severin and Greene's acts were two of the more polished ones that received positive feedback from the audience; they started the show off in a big way, getting the audience in a great mood,



KAT WARDELL / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
 GC alum Samm Severin performs her stand-up act at Buffington's. With the attention of an audience, she easily captivated right at the start. Severin's act included jokes about her family life, unemployment and sex.

Buffington's page 9

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

Buffington's

- 8/30: Death on Two Wheels
- 8/31: New Madrid
- 9/5: Baby Baby

Amici

- 9/5: Atlas Road Crew
- 9/6: Lingo
- 9/12: Sumilan

Shows start at 11 p.m.

MARYLIN FERRELL EDITOR 

Yo. Word. Sup? Yeah, dawg. The name's Mer-
Thang. Dope. So, let me tell you a bit about myself.

I was struttin down the skreet then I broke mah fibula
Now you'll find me on campus in a purple cast, uh
But don't worry, I can still write and design
I promise, my pages will all look supah fine
Bands, art, music, and more
A&E section's got all yo' lookin' for
Lauren's my right hand gal with her own creative touch
This section's got everything you need, you'll love it
very much

Okay, just kidding. I don't really talk like that and
that was actually my first rap. This is the start to my
third year on the student newspaper, and I hope to
continue growing as a writer, editor and designer. I
hope to make this section extremely eye-appealing,
award-winning, interesting, and well-written. Feel
free to come talk to me about anything and everything.
I would love to talk to you.



SCOTT CARRANZA / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

 **LAUREN CORCINO**
ASST. EDITOR

Yo, it's LCEEZY. I'm about to serve it to you real quick. Check my flow.

In The Colonnade office dropping sick beats
Repping A&E, you know you're in for a treat.
Thrilling, spicy ledes cover the pages.
We got photos of bands performing on stages.
Marilyn by my side, we run this section.
The best thing about us is our smooth complexions.
My pen is my weapon, the sword's just for fun.
I have a head full of curly hair that's usually in a bun.

Scratch that. While I'm optimistic about my future career as a rap artist, I think I'll stick to my job as the Assistant A&E editor for now. If you ever want to challenge me in a rap battle or talk about all things A&E, swing by The Colonnade office and find me. I look forward to meeting you. Don't worry, readers. When I become famous, I'll remember to thank all of you in my acceptance speech.

Rawiya

Continued from page 7...

of beauty and elegance.

"My favorite [photographs] are the people," Dempsey said. "Everyday I come in and I see them and it's just really unique to me because it's not really capturing them just smiling in a pose, it's their expression on how they're living their life."

One of the most abstractly real collection by Laura Boushnek entitled "Survivor" features people who have been disabled or hurt by cluster ammunition.

"It's sad to see because with the photographs taken here, you see how people suffered [because] of the bombs," Nicole Tanner, sophomore nursing major, said. "It shows how all the people in this country were effected by the bombs, not just adults – everyone."

One picture depicts a young boy sitting in sand and gazing into the ocean - a beautiful picturesque moment, however the boy has no legs.

The other two collections are by Myriam Abdelaziz titled "Going South" and the other by Tanya Habjouqa is entitled Women of Gaza.

The exhibition will continue to be open until Sept. 11 and is located in the GC Museum. A reception will be held on Sept. 11 from 5-7 p.m. when Cynthia Farnell, the guest curator, will speak about the exhibit.

After this exhibit, the GC museum will host two artists: Karen Ann Myers and Derek Cracco. Cracco's exhibit, "From Here to There" will open Sept. 25, and Myer's exhibit will open Oct. 2. Both exhibits will have a combined artist talk on Oct. 7 from 5-7 p.m.



ELLIE SMITH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The collection, "The Day I Became A Woman," focuses on the symbolic rite of passage of young girls who become women in their ninth year of life. The girls – now women – celebrate their new beginning in life. According to Tavkolian's artist statement, "In modern day Tehran girls' schools organize special events to mark this moment, called the "jashne taklif" which means "celebration of responsibility."

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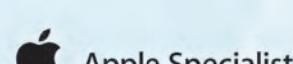
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KAT WARDELL / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Comedians had the audience rolling with laughter on Aug. 21 at Buffington's. Comedians both from GC and out of town performed for students at Buffington's Back-to-School event, getting the crowd in a good mood during the first week of classes. This event was just one of two events the downtown bar hosted during the first week of school.

Buffington's

Continued from page 7...

and the good vibes were obvious throughout the whole bar.

"There were a lot of people seeing each other for the first time since the summer, so that added another level of happiness to the night. I think the excitement, friendliness and laughter that filled the night was an awesome way to kick off a new semester," Cutler said.

GC alum Kevin Hall, who hosted the event, said the show was probably one of the best to ever take place at the bar.

"I had several people come up to me after the show and tell me to let them know whenever we do another one because they want to be there. We are planning on making this a semi-regular thing at Buffington's," Hall said, when asked about the future of comedy at Buffington's.

To continue the positive energy throughout the end of the week, Buffington's hosted musical guests the following Friday night. Milledgeville's own Tha Hugs were scheduled to headline the event, but unfortunately were not able to due to the last minute sickness of their front-runner.

Benton Meadows, GC senior English major and guitarist for Tha Hugs, commented on the band not being able to perform on Friday.

"We weren't able to play because our front man got really sick at the last minute," Meadows said. "But the other two bands that played, Lena Babbitt and The Castrators, that we share some members with, played in our stead. Still, the show as a whole went really well, and even with that little hiccup, people had a good time."

Although Tha Hugs did not perform, two

other bands took their place. The turnout on Friday night was strong, and it seemed that the energy that was stirred up in Buffington's from Wednesday night's comedy show carried over to Friday. Lena Babbitt, one of the bands that performed, featured a member who performed at the Comedy Blowout as well. Connor Yates performed a hilarious stand up act on Wednesday as well as played guitar for Lena Babbitt on Friday.

When asked about being able to perform at both events, Yates said, "Buffington's is a great Milledgeville landmark with an incredible staff, so I am always psyched when I get a chance to perform there. The best crowd is a Buffington's crowd."

Buffington's consistently hosts various musical guests and other events year round to appeal to the GC student body. To find out about future shows and events taking place at Buffington's, visit gesunade.com.

“

There were a lot of people seeing each other for the first time since the summer, so that added another level of happiness to the night.

-Whitney Cutler

”

SPOTLIGHT

Aimee Jones, senior nursing major, reflects on a summer spent abroad.

Aimee Jones is one of 11 Georgia College nursing students who spent two weeks immersed in the culture of the Philippines alongside native nursing practitioners to conduct a pilot research study on the harmful effects of tobacco.

COLONNADE: Why the Philippines?

JONES: One professor, Psychology Nursing professor Dr. Bondal, lived there originally, so it was her hometown that we went to.

COLONNADE: What did your studies focus on at the college in Bohol?

JONES: It was a research nursing class, so we were learning the different ways to carry out research, the different aspects of writing a research paper and how to ask questions when you are researching.



Photo by Scott Caranza

country with someone that already knew that culture and knew the people and the land...it just made me feel more comfortable and more willing to go out there and study abroad and do more missions.

COLONNADE: What lessons have you brought back to GC?

JONES: People there don't have air conditioning in their hospitals. They have two-to-three people in a bed. It's crazy. I think I definitely learned not to take things for granted in the practice. People aren't the same, and you have to treat everyone differently. They're not just one person.

COLONNADE: What would you say to GC students debating study abroad programs?

JONES: Definitely do it. If you can do it, do it. It just gives you a different perspective. You grew up in the U.S. all your life, go out and do something different.

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GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Sports

August 30, 2013 • Editor, Lee McDade

Gearing up for Success

GC volleyball buckling down days before program's inaugural match

NICK LANDON
STAFF WRITER

While Georgia College students have been tirelessly adjusting to life back at school after an all-too-short summer, 16 young women and their coaches have been hard at work getting ready for a very important moment for our university. GC has added a volleyball team to its roster of varsity sports, and the season is just a couple of weeks away.

The team is new, all the way around. Thirteen of the 16 players are freshmen and have only been playing together for a couple of weeks.

Head coach Gretchen Krumdieck says this is nothing to worry about and has only good things to say about this very talented, albeit young group of athletes.

"They were nervous at our first practice, and it definitely showed, but they got over that very quickly," Krumdieck said.

Krumdieck isn't too concerned with her team's lack of experience playing together either and has reported dramatic improvements in just a week's time.

Considering the fact that the team has only been working together for just over a week or so now, freshman volleyball player Micayla Patterson said the team has come together as well as anyone could have hoped. "Everyone's gotten along really well so far," said Patterson. "It helps that we're all new, so we're all experiencing the same things, and we're all growing together."

The team's freshmen will certainly need to show their stuff come game time, but the three upperclassmen, junior Lauren Johnston and sophomores Ella Anastasiades and Sydney Stripling, will be of great importance to the young team.

The upperclassmen participated in a few weeks of spring training earlier this year, which, according to Anastasiades, has helped keep a handful of further experienced young women on the team.

"We definitely had the advantage of being one-on-one with the coach, which we all re-



SCOTT CARRANZA / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

With freshmen making up a majority of the team, the newly established Georgia College volleyball team has been hitting the court, practicing their bumps, spikes and blocks. Coach Krumdieck emphasized on communication during their practice. This is the first time playing the sport competitively for many of the new players, but Krumdieck is hopeful.

"...we're all experiencing the same things and we're all growing together." -Micayla Patterson

ally appreciated," said Anastasiades.

Krumdieck expects the Bobcats to fit nicely into the fairly level Peach Belt Conference alongside Columbus State, which is also having its inaugural season this Sep-

tember. She also expects the team to make a splash in the conference. "I think we're going to shake things up a little bit," said Krumdieck.

Apart from standings toppers Armstrong Atlantic and Flagler University, the teams in the Peach Belt are rather close in talent, which usually makes for an exciting race to

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GC Cross Country amped up

Georgia College cross country team enters fall season with young team

BETHAN ADAMS
SENIOR REPORTER

High hopes are in store for this year's Georgia College cross country teams. As the men's and women's teams hit the trails again, fresh and seasoned runners alike focus on rebuilding and melding as a team.

The women slip into their pink Nikes. The men piece together new chants based off the movie "Cool Runnings."

"Feel the rhythm, feel the rhyme, come on everybody, it's Bobcat time!"

Cross country coach Joe Samprone likes what he sees in the newest freshmen runners this season and is pleased with how well the teams are coming together, although he said their first race will give a better idea of how well they will perform.

A Bobcat veteran, Samprone has been the head coach of cross country since 2000 and taught economics at GC before then.

With a telltale Boston accent, Samprone said the challenge for any coach is keeping the teams physically fit.

Something as simple as catching a cold, tripping over a log or spraining an ankle can be the Achilles heel for a runner.

Sickness is especially difficult to control, as the team travels together.

"If one kid sneezes," said Samprone, "you're gonna get [sick]."

Like most athletes, rest and food are essential for optimal performance, but cross country even more so because the human body is the sport's only essential equipment.

The men and women are currently hard at work conditioning away summer solstice and getting into peak condition. The men's team is young, with mostly freshman and sophomore runners in their 11-man squad.

"It's exciting having a young team, because we know if we just keep working then it'll be awesome for the future," sophomore Paul McNeil said. "We may not do anything huge for this year but we all have goals for the future."

The teams practice early weekday mornings, and usually race on Saturdays. McNeil said his training schedule keeps his life structured and focused.

Sophomore night owl, Taylor Roeck, who hopes

to follow in her mother's footsteps and run a full marathon someday, said getting to bed early in anticipation of early morning practice is daunting, but she accepts it with a smile and a shrug.

As one of last year's top women runners, Roeck said her biggest strength is her ability to conquer hills.

Roeck gets lost in her own thoughts when she runs, sometimes singing a song in her head as she paces herself.

"It's a really good time to think of things," she said. "Sometimes I'll sing a song. It's really annoying, though, when you start a count in rhythm with your feet, and I can't stop, no matter what. It's so annoying!"

McNeil tries to relax as he races and said he has calmed down since his beginning years of running, learning to pace himself by starting slow and ending quickly.

"At this point, after running for so many years, I don't have to freak out as much," he said.

Samprone said he works with his runners in maintaining their speed and pacing themselves.

"You can't start like a jackrabbit and finish like a tortoise," he said.

McNeil, who fell in love with cross country in high school, said running is a thrilling experience.

"You just destroy your body during that moment [in the race]," he said. "You're just going all out. You finish and it's complete relief and even if you have a bad race, you just know you just did as hard as you could. It's a cool thing."

The relief of reaching the finish line is universal.

"When I see [the finish line], I start sprinting," Roeck said. "So that really motivates you. It's really just relief, 'cause you're done."

McNeil said that not many people have high expectations for the team this year, based on past performance and the age of the team. In cross country, if the audience is not electrified immediately, the sport often loses appeal and is placed on the back-burner. The teams may surprise GC this year, however, as the cross country teams hit the ground running with an eagerness and love for their sport.

"They can do the job," said Samprone. "They are talented. Very, very talented."

The Bobcats' first home race of the season is the Bobcat Invitational on Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

GC Cross Country Team Records

Men's Highest Finish

1. Jeff Raymond, Oct. 10, 1998
2. James Black, Sept. 23 1999
3. James Black, Oct. 7, 1999

Women's Top 5K

1. Allison Lones, 19:13
2. Karissa Ekstrom, 19:40
3. Bethany Loushine, 19:44



An American giant repents

Retired professional boxer Mike Tyson admitted Sunday night to being sober and drug-free only six days in the past four years.

Watching his monologue on ESPN's The Fight Network, Tyson's words gave me chills. This beast of a tattooed man choked on his words and broke down in front of everyone.

"I'm a bad guy sometimes. I did a lot of bad things, and I want to be forgiven," he said. "So in order for me to be forgiven, I hope they can forgive me. I wanna change my life, I wanna live a different life now. I wanna live my sober life. I don't wanna die. I'm on the verge of dying because I'm a vicious alcoholic."

The fact that Tyson, "the baddest man on the planet," came right out and apologized for his past amazes me. He specifically asked his former trainer Teddy Atlas for forgiveness, too. After his initial, shocking admission to being addicted to drugs and alcohol all these years, he turned his address to Atlas and begged for forgiveness.

Years ago, Tyson sexually harassed an 11-year-old girl related to Atlas. Atlas held a gun to Tyson's head and threatened him if he came near the girl again. Tyson was still in his teens at the time.

All of us
are fakers.
All
of us wear
masks.

"I don't wanna fight you no more," Tyson told Atlas, now an ESPN analyst, in his speech Sunday. "I was wrong. I'm sorry. I was wrong. I just wanted to make my amends. If he accepted it or not, at least I could die and go to my grave and say I made my amends with everybody I hurt. It's all about love and forgiveness, and in order for those guys to forgive me – other guys, you know, I want people to forgive the things I've done."

What is most amazing to me is the courage it took for Tyson to say that in front of the whole world. Not only does Tyson say he's sorry, he humbles himself and asks to be forgiven.

Part of me says not to trust him. He's been lying the past four years; why should this apology matter?

It matters because it is real life. All of us are fakers. All of us wear masks. In the past four years in my own life here at GC, I know a day hasn't gone by with me not faking a smile or shielding the truth.

Don't worry; I'm not saying we should all dump our emotions on each other daily and swap individual sob stories over coffee, but I am saying we can learn from Tyson's raw apology.

If we're afraid to be truthful or afraid to acknowledge that we aren't perfect beings, then we build walls and shut love out. The void inside us will continue to ache and to grow with each passing day of fake perfection.

Let it go.

The truth will set you free after all.

HAVE A RESPONSE? Send it to
colonnadesports@gcsu.edu

The Short Stop



Upcoming Games

Volleyball

Sept. 5 Inaugural Match

Women's Soccer

Sept. 13 Bobcat Shootout vs. Pfeiffer

Cross Country

Sept. 13 Bobcat Invitational

Quote of the Week

"I think we're going to shake things up a bit."

-Gretchen Krumdieck,
volleyball head coach.

Notable Stat

13

Number of freshmen on the GC Volleyball team. There are a total of 16 players.



SCOTT CARRANZA / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Volleyball veteran Gretchen Krumdieck looks forward to bringing her rich volleyball insight to her newly conceived team. Prior to becoming GC's new head coach, Krumdieck was assistant volleyball coach at Division I Davidson College.

WELCOME

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come by and see us!

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Volleyball

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the finals.

A glance at last year's standings reveals that six of the eight Peach Belt teams' overall records were separated by approximately two games, which is wildly close for a season of more than 30 games.

The highly competitive conference play, as well as some big cross conference games like the team's season opener against Fort Valley State, will make for some exciting displays this fall.

With a very young roster and only a few weeks of practice under their belts, the team may seem like the underdog, but make no mistake: This hugely talented and dedicated team is bound to make waves at GC as well as in the Peach Belt Conference.

This first game is huge, and students shouldn't miss it. The team will fight for its first inaugural game Thursday, Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Centennial Center.

September Volleyball Home Games

5th	Fort Valley	7 p.m.
13th	Montevallo	7 p.m.
14th	Columbus St.	12 p.m.
14th	West Georgia	4 p.m.
25th	USC Aiken	7 p.m.
27th	Lander	7 p.m.
28th	Flagler	7 p.m.

Fundraising on the fair way

*Annual golf tournament a major source
of income for Georgia College athletics*

CLAYTON ROPER
STAFF WRITER

tant because they're the ones we have to reach out to. It helps us out a ton, and [the benefactors] get to play a fun game of golf!"

One of these benefactors is none other than Abby's father, Keith Slocumb, who graduated from GC in '86 and holds a place in the school's hall of fame for his participation on the baseball team.

The fundraiser also bolsters the athletic departments general budget, helping pay for competitive essentials and renovations, including the new volleyball program.

"We're looking at getting new jerseys this year, and it depends a lot on what we fundraise. We all want new jerseys. We've been wanting them for years," Slocumb said.

The Bobcat Classic is well-known for extravagant prizes, consistently rewarding participants with TVs, gaming consoles, mobile devices, vacation packages and cars.

"One of the reasons folks continue to come back – aside from supporting the mission – is that we have great prizes," Staton said.

This year, the tournament is prepared to give away two cars to anyone who can sink a hole-in-one at specific points on the course.

"We've never had anyone drop a hole-in-one," Barsby said. "We've had guys lip it out, hit the stick or land right beside it, but we've never had anyone win it."

At the end of the day, all the fabulous prizes and competition should add up to one final goal: the continuing success of GC's athletic programs.

"It's more about community engagement, fellowship and getting together for the cause than it is about trying to have a low score," Staton said. "It's really more about fun. Fun and fellowship!"

The tournament will consist of two tee-off times. The first takes place at 8 a.m., and the second starts at 12 p.m.



GC STUDENTS



THEATRE

The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us up.

— FORMER TEXAS CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA JORDAN

^{H₂O}

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